(Quantity:Tons; Value: Rs. Crs.)

Product	1995-96		1996-97 (Api .-Dec.)		1995-96 (Apr -Dec.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Cigarettes	884	13.93	329	7.34	778	12.13
Bidis	676	11.52	419	9.72	269	5.06
Hookah Tobacco Paste	9376	26.12	6506	20.91	6196	17.37
Chewing Tobacco/ Zarda	424	6.07	272	12.87	274	3.73
Cut Tobacco	512	1.78	11	0.10	512	1.77
Snuff	6	0.08	6	0.10	-	-
Others	5	0.18	2	0.03	4	0.14
Total	11883	59.68	7545	51.07	8033	40.20

(Source: Tobacco Board)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Bidis, Hookah Tobacco Paste and Snuff have shown a marginal increase in quantity and value terms in April-December, 1996 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Production of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco

914. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Tobacco Board to each State to boost the production of tobacco during the above period;

(c) whether tobacco growers of several States have demanded remunerative price for their produces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Govemment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total production of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the country, State-wise are:—

Production in M.K. gs. (Green Wt.)

State	1995-96	1996-97 (Estimated)
Andhra Pradesh	101.66	132.10 (Approx.)
Maharashtra	0.21	0.20
Orissa	0.13	0.20
Karnataka	25.00	36.00

(b) Tobacco Board has been implementing various developmental and extension Schemes for increasing the yield and quality of FCV tobacco grown in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka where FCV tobacco is mainly grown. Under these schemes financial assistance in the shape of subsidy is being given to the FCV tobacco growers. The expenditure on these schemes for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have been Rs. 40.89 lakh and Rs. 17.41 lakhs respectively in 1995-96, and Rs. 45.03 lakhs and Rs. 28.32 lakhs respectively in 1996-97.

(c) and (e) Representations have been received from tobacco growers of Karnataka from time to time on various issues which includes demand for remunerative prices. The 1996-97 auctions held in Karnataka shows a favourable price received by farmers of tobacco.

Some of the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to Karnataka farmers are:—

(i) Negotiating with Tobacco Trade for declaration of a Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP) which is higher than the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government.

(ii) Conducting auctions thereby ensuring competitive bidding.

The average price relisation in the current Karnataka auctions has been Rs. 53.12 per kg. till date.

Inquiry into newsprint import

915. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-dumping authority under the Ministry has held inquiry in the mater of import of newsprint from US, Canada and Russia following a petition filed by Indian Newsprint Manufacturers Association;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that domestic industry has suffered by such dumping alongwith names of units which have been closed and the ones which had to reduce production; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that domestic industry is not subjected to injury in future and those responsible for above import are taken to task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLIRAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The designated authority in the Ministry of Commerce has initiated anti-dumping investigations on 20.12.96 against imports of newsprint from USA, Canada and Russia based on a petition filed by Indain Newsprint Manufacturers Association. Under the provisions of customs Tariff Act and the rules made thereunder, the authority follows a quasi-judicial procedure taking into account submissions made by all the interested parties before making any recommendations. The investigations in the case of newsprint are in progress and no provisional or final findings have been announced so far.

देश में चाय का उत्पादन

916. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में चाय का कुल कितना उत्पादन हुआ और उसका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) देश में चाय की प्रति वर्ष घरेलौउ खपत कितनी है; और

(ग) चाय उत्पादक राज्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (डा. बोला मुल्ली रमैया) : (क) तथा (ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में चाय की खपत और उत्पादन निम्नांकित है:-

वर्ष	उत्पादन (मिलियन कि.ग्रा.)	घरेलू खपत (मिलियन कि.ग्रा.)
1994	752.89	580
1995*	753.92	595
1996*	780.03	613

*अनुमानित
स्रोत : चाय बोर्ड

(ग) चाय के मुख्य उत्पादक राज्य है: असम, पश्चिमी बंगाल, तमिलनाडु केरल और कर्नाटक। इनके अतिरिक्त चाय का उत्पादन त्रिपुरा, बिहार, उत्तरप्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, सिक्किम, उड़ीसा, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर और नागालैंड में भी होता है।,

WTO's Committee on balance of payment

917. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the World Trade Organisations' Committee on balance of: payments was held in January, 1997;